

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: FONMIN FAHMY ON PALESTINIANS AND UNSC MEETING

1. ALL CAIRO DAILIES JANUARY 6 HIGHLIGHTED PORTIONS OF
FONMIN FAHMY'S PRESENTATION TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY
DEALING WITH PALESTINIANS AND JANUARY 12 UNSC MEETING.
MAJOR POINTS FAHMY MADE FOLLOW VERBATIM:

2. EGYPT'S POLICY IS BASED ON DEVOTING THE YEAR 1976 TO
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR CAUSE. EGYPT WILL WORK,
FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE
SUMMONED TO CONVENE BEFORE THE END OF THE FIRST HALF OF THIS
YEAR, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT THE CLIMATE HAS BECOME SUITABLE
FOR THE PLO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE ON AN EQUAL
FOOTING. EGYPT CANNOT ACCEPT SEEING ISRAEL'S OBSTINATE
STAND OR ANY OTHER HESITANT ARAB STAND LEAD TO DELAYING
THE CONVOCAION OF THE CONFERENCE. WE WILL MAKE AN
INTENSIVE EFFORT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL ALL SIDES
CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED
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STATES IN THEIR CAPACITY AS CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE.

WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS CONNECTION IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S STAND IS COMPLETELY IN LINE WITH THE EGYPTIAN STAND. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET UNION SENT TWO MEMOS TO THE US GOVERNMENT CALLING FOR THE CONVOCAION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND BY THE FACT THAT COMRADE GROMYKO SAID FRANKLY - VERBATIM - IN THE LETTER HE SENT TO ME ON 11 NOVEMBER: "THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S STAND IS IN LINE WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT'S STAND AS WE HAVE CONCLUDED FROM THE DISCUSSIONS AND CONTACTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN US DURING VISITS AND IN THE EXCHANGES OF LETTERS."

3. THIS SITUATION REQUIRES THAT THE PLO LEADERS COURAGEOUSLY AND WITHOUT ANY HESITATION ADOPT DECISIONS AND STANDS WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH THE TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AND THE INTERACTION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD WITH THE PLO. THIS IS RELATED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD ON 12 JANUARY 1976. WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS ALTHOUGH WE ARE FULLY CONVINCED THAT SINCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS NOT YET MET TO DISCUSS THE TWO ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS SERIOUSLY AND OBJECTIVELY, THE OPPORTUNITY HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN TO THIS CONFERENCE TO ACT WHETHER THROUGH ITS PRESENT STRUCTURE OR AFTER ADDING NEW ELEMENTS TO ITS MEMBERSHIP. CONSEQUENTLY, EGYPT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS CANNOT BE REGARDED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, NOR DOES EGYPT EXPECT THE COUNCIL TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING LIKE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE COUNCIL MIGHT LEAD TO A NEW NECESSARY ADDITION; NAMELY, A FRANK ADMISSION BY THE COUNCIL THAT PEACE IN THE AREA CANNOT BE DURABLE OR JUST UNLESS IT OBJECTIVELY TACKLES THE ISSUE ON A POLITICAL BASIS WITH THE AIM OF CREATING AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN ENTITY. CONSEQUENTLY, IF THE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM-OR, IN OTHER WORDS, THE DEMANDS OF THE ARAB STATES AND THE PLO--IS RESTRICTED TO THIS MAJOR ISSUE WITHOUT TOUCHING ON AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, I EXPECT AND THINK THAT IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THE COUNCIL WILL APPROVE THIS LINE. I FIND UNCLASSIFIED

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ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFICULTY IN ASSUMING THAT THERE WILL BE UNANIMITY ON THIS IN THE COUNCIL. THUS, THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE ADDED SOMETHING NEW AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED A BASIC TRANSFORMATION CONTRIBUTING TO STRENGTHENING OUR POSITION IN THE FUTURE, WHETHER IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OR ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

5. IF THE PURPOSE OF GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS TO PLAY ONEUPMANSHIP OR TO DISCUSS LOCAL ATTITUDES OR MERELY TO PRACTICE PROPAGANDA AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, THEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY NOT ISSUE ANYTHING AT ALL OR MAY BECOME POWERLESS TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION. IN SUCH A CASE, THE OUTCOME WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND EXTREMELY HARMFUL BECAUSE THE FAILURE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ISRAEL, AS EVIDENCE THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVES THE VIEW WHICH ALLEGES THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS NOT A POLITICAL ONE. IN SUCH A CASE, EGYPT WILL HOLD FULLY RESPONSIBLE ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS THE ROAD OF ONEUPMANSHIP AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHTS BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING EASIER THAN ONEUPMANSHIP AND TRADING ON PEOPLE'S INTERESTS.

6. IN SUM, EGYPT'S STAND IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS. I CANNOT SEE ANY DIFFICULTY WHATSOEVER FOR THE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO GO ALONG WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE WITH THIS EGYPTIAN LINE, AS LONG AS ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE CONTINUES TO BE AN UNRESPONSIVE ONE OF REJECTION. IF ISRAEL DOES NOT MOVE AND PERSISTS IN WASTING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR JOINING IN THE INTERNATIONAL MOVE TOWARD PEACE, 1976 WILL BE A GLOOMY YEAR FOR ISRAEL AND WILL BRING IT MORE POLITICAL ISOLATION AND INTERNATIONAL DENUNCIATION.
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